

NEWSRELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montana Women's Prison warden announced

The Department of Corrections announced Friday that Joan Daly, deputy warden for treatment services at the Montana Women's Prison, has been tapped as the new warden.

"The selection committee was really impressed by Joan's extensive experience in mental health and by her thoughtful leadership," Director Mike Batista said. "In addition to having over 15 years working with Montanans suffering from mental health problems, Joan has been actively involved in community outreach, in working with the legislature on mental health initiatives, and in security and emergency response. I believe her commitment to helping prepare inmates to successfully re-enter their communities will serve the inmates and Montana well."

Before joining corrections, Daly was associate administrator at Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs for almost four years. She developed and worked as director of the Community Crisis Center for the Yellowstone Healthcare Alliance in Billings for a year. Prior to that, Daly spent seven years as director of psychiatry for the Billing Clinic. From 1998-2000, she was director of clinical outpatient services for Youth Dynamics Inc. in Billings. She has a bachelor's degree in extended psychology and history, and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, both from what is now MSU Billings.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to serve in the capacity of warden," Daly said. "I believe that the safety and security of the staff, inmates and public are the first and foremost priority."

"Over the past year, I've been very impressed with the talent and dedication of the staff at the Women's Prison. And I look forward to working in partnership with the treatment, program and security staff, and supporting their efforts to create positive change in the lives of the inmates."

The three other finalists for the position were:

- Clare Armstrong-Seward of Smyrna, NY, accreditation auditor for the American Correctional Association for the past 18 years and a nearly 26-year veteran of the New York Department of Correctional Services where she held security positions at various correction facilities.
- James Gerlach of Montrose, CO, jail administrator for the Montrose County sheriff's office for the past five years.
- Bob Paul, deputy warden for security and maintenance at the Montana Women's Prison for more than eight years.

Daly succeeds Jo Acton, who retired May 31* after 18 years as head of the 194-bed prison. Her annual salary as warden will be \$80,080.

*Correction: Acton initially planned to retire July 1, but later requested that her retirement date be

moved up to May 31.

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